

Sizzling Summer Days with the

Breathe easy
at home program

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SMOOTHING OUT THE KINKS IN BREATHE EASY AT HOME

1. Please check the Breathe Easy website for resources and information on the BEAH process, the newsletter, tenant and property owner rights & responsibilities, and information from the Medical-Legal Partnership Boston.
2. If you are unsure about your health care facility's registration status or password, please call the BEAH Coordinator directly at: (617) 534-2485. Please do not re-register your clinic on the BEAH website.
3. If you have case update questions, again, please call the BEAH Coordinator directly as the process is far more efficient.
4. Please provide specific address and contact information for your patients. If the address is given as a range (i.e. 32-38 Test St.), ISD needs the most accurate phone number to reach your patient. If the patient does not have a phone, please provide one of another household resident.
5. Our success rate depends on the patients' understanding of the BEAH program. Please make sure your patients understand what they are signing up for. If you are unclear about how the program works, please see the materials on our website.
6. You can update patient's referral information. If you need to change patient information, please go to your facility's case list and make the changes within the referral form.
7. Breathe Easy is working diligently to move cases along as best we can. Please do not re-refer patients with open cases. If you are concerned, feel free to contact the Breathe Easy Coordinator.

Thank you all!

COLLABORATIVE CONVENTION ON SAFE & HEALTHY HOUSING

On Thursday, June 9th, inspectors from the Environmental Hazards and Lead Departments of the Boston Public Health Commission and housing inspectors from Inspectional Services teamed up with managers, maintenance supervisors and superintendents from the Boston Housing

Authority to renew their commitment to safe and healthy

housing in Boston. The 99 participants were seated according to their working district/ward/neighborhood and started with a "get-to-know-you" icebreaker. After the winners of the "Residential Inspection" BINGO game were announced, each table was given a case study to work together to resolve, using all known resources in the city of Boston. Feedback from the

activity focused on the fact that "working together gets better and faster resolutions for tenants." The Breathe Easy at Home program was honored to be a part of this convention and its successes!



Kids Can't Fly Campaign at the Boston Public Health Commission

Window falls can be fatal and are major injury hazards to small children, yet can be prevented.

The Boston Metropolitan Housing Partnership (MBHP), Boston Housing Authority (BHA), and the Boston Public Health Commission (Healthy Homes and Community Support Division) have partnered to promote window fall prevention and provide free window guards for Section 8 housing in Boston.

Free window guard qualification criteria:

- Landlord property has to be located in Boston
- Property must be to be occupied by children of 5 years of age or younger
- Landlord must own no more than 4 units
- Landlord is responsible for proper installation for the window guards
- This window guard promotion will only cover units from 2nd floor and above

Contact us: **617-534-5197** or childhoodinjury@bphc.org for information about the free window guard promotion.

In May, Breathe Easy was the topic of a webinar sponsored by the EPA and Environmental Law Institute. We were happy to answer questions from the 17 state health agencies represented!

ATTENTION:

There is a new resource on the [Breathe Easy website! Our Guide to Occupant Housekeeping](#) serves to answer questions about tenant responsibilities under the State Sanitary Code for Housing.

Air Conditioners, Filter Cleaning & Asthma

The quality of indoor air is one of the most effective ways to prevent the symptoms of asthma since allergens are airborne, and can be inhaled from indoor air. Pollution is a known aggravator of asthma attacks as well as general poor air quality. Various air solutions are available including Air Conditioners and Dehumidifiers, which

take excessive humidity and moisture out the home environment to prevent mold growth. These can help to reduce asthma triggers considerably.

What many residents do not remember about these air solutions, however, is that the filters need to be cleaned regularly.

In cooler weather, the same rule applies to indoor heaters and heating vents. Bathroom vents and ceiling fans should also be cleaned regularly so that dust particles are not blown back into the air.

Breathe Easy at Home Model Case

A physician from the Pediatrics Department of Boston Medical Center offered to share a successful resolution story from Breathe Easy!

During their pediatric primary care visit, the mother of the patient mentioned mold in their house and that their child had allergy/asthma symptoms .

According to the mother, within two days of the Breathe Easy at Home referral, the mold problem was solved. Also, mom reported that the wall-to-wall carpets were removed very quickly, as well. The fact that this case was addressed, solved and closed within a matter of days greatly pleased the mother, child and doctor.

